

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 534

Washington, D. C.

December 29, 1934

THE CONVENTION PROGRAM

Requests for room reservations at the Stevens Hotel for the annual convention the week of January 14th indicate that there will be a record-breaking attendance. Canners are keenly interested both in business prospects for the coming year and in the measures that may be taken by the Administration and Congress with respect to labeling requirements, revision of the food laws and other legislation.

The convention will be a working meeting, with the program so arranged that every canner will be enabled to participate, if he so desires, in formulating and expressing the industry's wishes with respect to the two subjects considered of greatest immediate concern—labeling and food law revision. The program is now in press and copies will be sent to all members during the first week in January.

The opening session will be held Monday afternoon, when there will be a general discussion of labeling and legislation under the auspices of the Association's committees on labeling and legislation, respectively. On the following three days there will be meetings of section and commodity groups, at which the chief business will be discussion and action upon the descriptive labeling terms that have been proposed for the various commodities. The closing session will be held Friday morning.

A meeting of canners will be held on Tuesday evening under the auspices of the Code Authority for the Canning Industry for the discussion of appropriate subjects.

On Friday afternoon following the adjournment of the convention the Food and Drug Administration will conduct a public hearing on proposed standards for fruits for salad under the McNary-Mapes Amendment, the standard of fill of container for canned mushrooms, and revision of the standard for canned tomatoes.

The entertainment features of the convention will include the Old Guard reception and dinner on Sunday evening, the annual dinner dance under the auspices of the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association on Wednesday evening, and the traditional theater party given by the American Can Com-

pany on Thursday evening. As last year, this party will be given at the Chicago Theater.

NEXT NUMBER OF LETTER AFTER CONVENTION

The next issue of the Information Letter will be published after the annual convention in Chicago. An index of the Letter for the year 1934 is in preparation and will be published at the earliest practicable date.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON TOMATO PACK

Reports received by the Association's Division of Statistics from 838 tomato canners, together with estimates of the pack of other canners known to be packing tomatoes, indicate a pack in 1934 of 18,795,425 cases of all sizes or equivalent to 12,912,741 cases of No. 3's. This is a preliminary report of the tomato pack which will be revised, checked and released in its final form soon after the first of the year.

Stocks of tomatoes unsold in canners' hands as of December 1 amounted to 5,159,501 cases of all sizes. This figure includes the unsold stocks of the above group of canners, together with estimates for the small per cent not reporting stocks. These estimates bear the same relation to the pack of the non-reporters as the relation of the reported stocks to the pack of the canners reporting stocks.

The pack, by states, in 1934, was as follows:

State	Actual cases	Standard cases
Maryland	5,534,055	3,611,384
Delaware	538,088	401,000
New Jersey	103,961	126,411
Indiana	3,066,877	2,042,995
Ohio	790,876	521,646
New York	797,461	601,891
Arkansas and Missouri	219,953	133,671
Virginia and West Virginia	1,631,632	1,005,207
California	3,187,487	2,517,566
Utah	539,722	419,601
Pennsylvania	348,602	234,043
Tennessee and Kentucky	707,455	444,757
Others	1,202,656	852,568
Total	18,795,425	12,912,741

The pack in different sizes of containers and the stocks in canners' hands on December 1, 1934, were as follows:

	Pack 1934 Cases	Stocks Dec. 1, 1934 Cases
No. 2 (24 to case)	11,201,194	2,954,648
No. 1 (48 to case)	1,071,959	213,705
No. 3 (24 to case)	905,373	370,787
No. 2½ (24 to case)	2,800,938	726,026
No. 10 (6 to case)	2,195,729	825,979
Miscellaneous	500,232	68,356
Total	18,795,425	5,159,501

SUMMARY OF CANNING CROPS

Acres and production of canning crops in 1933 and 1934, as compared with the average of the five preceding years, are shown in the following table, which has been compiled from figures issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

	Acreage			Production		
	5-yr. av. 1928-32 <i>Acres</i>	1933 <i>Acres</i>	1934 <i>Acres</i>	5-yr. av. 1928-32 <i>Tons</i>	1933 <i>Tons</i>	1934 <i>Tons</i>
Asparagus	41,380	55,470	47,120	59,560	67,700	56,500
Beets	a 6,350	4,040	5,690	a 35,900	24,800	33,800
Cabbage (kraut)	20,260	16,440	24,060	165,900	95,400	197,400
Corn, sweet	312,600	199,670	286,720	625,100	394,300	495,600
Lima beans	a 25,550	16,430	24,350	a 12,620	8,800	10,710
Peas, green	223,490	217,430	250,370	182,030	136,980	164,770
Pimientos	8,490	5,780	9,540	15,000	7,750	15,770
Snap beans	54,710	40,770	44,850	73,100	60,200	67,400
Spinach	11,110	10,100	15,290	52,700	36,000	41,300
Tomatoes	315,830	280,150	352,130	1,293,000	1,081,300	1,389,600

a Four-year average.

CODE FOR NEW ENGLAND SARDINE CANNING INDUSTRY

The National Industrial Recovery Board has approved a code of fair competition for the New England sardine canning industry, a division of the fishery industry. The code becomes effective Monday, December 31, 1934.

Sponsored by the Maine Sardine Packers Association, the code provides a 36-hour week, 8-hour day and 6-day week for clerical employees, except that during 12 weeks of the year they may work 40 hours a week and 9 hours a day. During the non-processing season the maximum work week shall be 36 hours of not more than 9 hours a day. During the processing season male employees may work 60 hours a week and 10 hours a day and female employees 44 hours a week and 8 hours a day.

Minimum wages of \$15 per week are provided for clerical and office employees and watchmen shall receive \$18 weekly. Minimum piece rates are established for packers, but in no event shall any such employee be paid less than 25 cents an hour. Learners shall receive a minimum of 18 cents an hour during a training period of not more than 200 hours.

The divisional code is to be administered by an Executive Committee of five members to be elected by members of the industry.

The trade practice rules include provisions relating to cash discounts, price basis, guarantee against price decline, brokerage and commission payments, filing prices, increased prices, destructive price cutting, price agreements, cost finding, emergency basis for prices, false information, compliance with specifications, purchases from fishermen and labeling.

PAY ROLL AUDIT PLAN UNDER CODE

In accordance with the decision of the Canning Code Authority at its recent meeting, the industry has been advised through a bulletin to its members that during the next two or three months a number of men will be put in the field to make check audits of pay rolls and instruct canners in the requirements of the code. Since the three Pacific Coast states have state auditing, no work will be done in those states.

Standard pay roll forms have been worked out and canners will be urged to adopt these unless they already have a satisfactory method of keeping pay rolls.

The bulletin expresses the belief that canners who have complied with the code will be glad to have their own records checked, and they are entitled to the protection which the check auditing and educational work will give against low-wage competition. It is expected that arrangements can be made for a general audit during the 1935 packing season, in compliance with the code.

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

	1934 Pounds	1933 Pounds	Change Per cent
Manufacturers' stocks (case goods) Dec. 1:			
Evaporated (34 firms).....	196,450,113	225,040,450	-12.70
Condensed (8 firms).....	11,236,161	10,783,410	+ 4.20
Total production, November:			
Evaporated (33 firms).....	97,196,301	69,166,285	+ 40.53
Condensed (7 firms).....	4,830,550	4,014,277	+ 20.33

CODE AUTHORITY DISTRIBUTES REPORT ON HOURS AND WAGES

The report, required by the Executive Order of May 29, 1934, on the operation of the hour and wage provisions of the Canning Code, which was submitted to the National Industrial Recovery Board on December 1, has been printed by the Canning Code Authority as Bulletin No. 19 and is being sent to all canners. The statistical and other exhibits accompanying the report as submitted by the Code Authority are presented in the bulletin in summarized form.

PROGRESS OF SHRIMP PACK

The pack of shrimp during the week ended December 19 totaled 17,741 cases, as compared with 8,650 cases during the corresponding week in 1933. The total pack from August 2, 1934, through December 19 was 773,685 cases, while that of August 3, 1933, through December 20 was 625,413, as reported by the Shrimp Section of the Association.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER

While exports of canned meats, vegetables, milk and fish generally increased in November, as compared with the corresponding month last year, there was a decline of nearly 50 per cent in the quantity of canned fruit shipped abroad. All meats showed a gain in quantity as did all vegetables except asparagus, which declined in quantity but increased in value. Loganberries, prunes and miscellaneous canned fruits were the only ones in this group to show a gain. There was a slight decline in sardine shipments although the value of the exports increased. Notable gain was made in mackerel exports. The detailed figures as reported by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	November, 1933		November, 1934	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total.....	1,058,732	\$288,897	1,593,938	\$549,956
Beef	84,252	26,219	332,650	113,966
Pork	881,819	243,886	1,028,010	385,667
Sausage	50,350	10,604	128,500	80,379
Other	42,311	8,188	104,778	19,944
Canned vegetables, total.....	2,102,169	183,397	2,542,375	229,046
Asparagus	981,086	100,398	905,251	111,832
Baked beans, and pork and beans	342,948	17,584	488,182	25,176
Corn	246,650	20,737	285,719	21,572
Peas	180,172	15,687	289,186	22,151
Soups	69,722	8,106	214,482	21,443
Tomatoes	105,782	7,126	139,429	8,904
Other	175,809	13,759	220,126	18,478
Condensed milk	251,006	29,263	821,216	104,162
Evaporated milk	1,843,122	112,480	2,839,808	176,718
Canned fruits, total.....	20,862,903	1,445,033	10,716,971	818,308
Apples and applesauce.....	1,803,744	74,012	473,544	22,054
Apricots	1,331,271	92,616	260,468	24,629
Berries, other	91,147	7,784	33,423	4,308
Cherries	83,734	8,034	67,064	7,706
Fruits for salad.....	3,222,404	321,180	1,193,060	126,373
Grapefruit	100,393	8,050	80,020	5,819
Loganberries	218,272	15,332	578,010	42,936
Peaches	5,806,919	395,871	2,275,462	160,258
Pears	6,967,983	432,453	4,561,734	320,457
Pineapple	1,276,152	108,509	801,985	70,982
Prunes	76,082	7,185	89,092	8,433
Other	378,712	33,407	303,100	24,353
Salmon	2,516,732	340,613	3,186,606	427,910
Sardines	2,434,404	131,745	2,301,395	134,716
Mackerel	216,923	10,146	1,280,993	44,514

CODE WAGES AND CANNED FOOD PRICES

In a bulletin sent to all canners, the Canning Code Authority has called attention to the subject of code wages as related to the prices of canned foods for future delivery. The bulletin states:

"The Code Authority has received many complaints during the past summer due to the fact that canners who were complying with the code hours and wages had a considerably increased labor cost, but found the price was not high enough to absorb the additional cost.

"This was largely because many canners made future contracts prior to approval of the code and without taking into consideration the increased costs; the entire market was established at a rather low figure.

"These additional labor costs are very important, and in many cases will make the difference between the profit or loss of a season's operation. We have no price-fixing or selling-below-cost provisions in our code as most canners do not believe such clauses would operate in an industry having so many units and such a variety of products. For the coming year canners must take into consideration any and all higher labor costs that would result from code operation, or repeat last year's painful experience.

"Canners will soon begin to make future contracts. Observance of code hours and wages is expected and will be demanded by the Administration. Pay rolls will be audited. Therefore all future prices should obviously be figured accordingly.

"This bulletin is being sent to all canners in the hope that they may avoid the serious difficulties in which many found themselves this year with higher labor costs for which provision had not been made in the price in 1934. We do not anticipate that wage rates will be less than they were this year."

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CANNERS

Results of a study of methods of handling market peas, made at the request of pea growers in New York State, are given in a 28-page illustrated pamphlet (Bulletin 599) issued by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station.

The results of experiments on the application of steam in the sterilization of soils are reported in Technical Bulletin No. 443 issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The principal objects of the study were to find the effect of initial steam pressure on the final moisture content of the soil, the final temperature of the soil, and the quantity of steam needed.

The Department of Agriculture has issued as Farmers Bulletin No. 1442 a revision of an earlier publication (Farmers Bulletin No. 970) on storage of sweet potatoes. Besides discussing requirements for successful storage it furnishes detailed information on construction and materials required for storage houses of different sizes.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF GERMAN CANNING INDUSTRY

The outstanding event in the German canned fruit and vegetable trade during 1934 was the complete coordination of the industry under rigid government supervision. The organiza-

tion known as the Economic Association of the German Fruit and Vegetable Exploiting Industry, which was founded by a decree of November 5, 1933, has had its powers very considerably enlarged under a law dated October 13, 1934, issued by the Reich Minister of Agriculture, with the result that it controls the entire trade down to the smallest details.

Various kinds of soft drink and mineral water factories, vinegar plants, and mustard producers must now become members of the association, so that the name of the organization has been amended to include the wording and Allied Trades.

The association has been divided into 15 sections which together exercise complete control of prices, production quotas, quality, opening or closing of plants or plant extensions, purchase of raw materials and the warehousing, packing and selling of the finished goods, etc.

The 15 commodity divisions are as follows: Canned vegetables, cucumbers, sauerkraut, canned fruits, marmalades, fruit jellies and fruit krauts, Reubenkraut, fruit juices, fruit and berry wines, sweet ciders, essences, pectin, mineral waters and lemonades, vinegar, mustard.

LABOR DEPARTMENT TO STUDY FAMILY EXPENDITURES

What is spent by the representative family for various items will be the subject of a study to be made by the U. S. Labor Department, in cooperation with the Russell Sage Foundation and the New York City Relief Administration, among 1,000 representative families of employed wage earners in New York City. This investigation, which is part of a larger survey to determine the cost of living, will be used as the basis for revising the cost-of-living index published periodically by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NEW ARGENTINE SANITARY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

New Argentina customs regulations require a sanitary inspection and a sanitary import permit for the importation of fruits, vegetables, seeds, etc., in addition to the sanitary certificate of the country of origin which has heretofore been required.

Products appropriately preserved, such as in sugar syrup, pickled, etc., and those which have been baked, necessitating their being put up in hermetically sealed containers, may be exempt from the sanitary import permit requirement.

STATISTICAL LEAFLET ON BEAN PACK

The Association's annual leaflet on the pack of green and wax beans is mailed with this issue of the Information Letter.

Members desiring additional copies may obtain them upon request.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET COMPETITION

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics,
Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Week ending	Week ending		Total for season	
	Dec. 15 1934	Dec. 22 1934	Dec. 22 1933	through Dec. 22 1934	1933
Beans, snap and lima	140	12	333	1,488	2,730
Tomatoes	82	104	112	25,368	23,187
Green peas	37	39	41	6,900	9,092
Spinach	265	217	158	936	1,345
All other vegetables:					
Domestic—					
Competing directly	4,272	3,851	3,046	128,626	109,811
Competing indirectly	52	88	69	12,092	9,294
Imports—					
Competing directly	128	257	92	492	210
Competing indirectly	...	31	28	457	656
Fruits:					
Citrus, domestic	4,008	3,004	2,687	30,222	25,212
Imports	4	4	10	51	383
Others, domestic	142	87	112	51,625	38,022
Index of fresh vegetables prices	72	72	78
Index of canned vegetables prices	90	88.6	76

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